

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0224

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: REASON FOR INCLUDING AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN DATA BREAKDOWN

REF: MBFR VIENNA 217

1. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, THE DELEGATION UNDERSTANDS THAT THE FRG'S MOD IS CURRENTLY OBJECTING TO PROVIDING BREAKDOWNS OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER DATA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FRG'S PROPOSED INITIATIVE ON THE DATA DISCUSSION. THE DELEGATION HAS PROPOSED AT LEAST ONE LEVEL OF BREAKDOWN OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER BE INCLUDED IN A WESTERN PROPOSAL BASED ON THE FRG CONCEPT. THERE ARE COMPELLING REASONS FOR THIS RECOMMENDATION.

2. THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF THE FRG PROPOSAL IS TO OBTAIN A SPECIFIC PROFILE ON THE LOCATION AND EXTENT OF THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WESTERN AND EASTERN DATA ON WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER. TO DO SO, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN SEPARATE NATIONAL TOTALS FOR PACT AIR FORCE MANPOWER AND TO BREAK THESE DOWN.

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3. ACCORDING TO WESTERN DATA, WHEN GROUND AND AIR FORCE MANPOWER IS ALLOCATED ON A BASIS WHICH WOULD PERMIT COMPARISON WITH EASTERN DATA, A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL DISCREPANCY OF 176,000 MEN, OVER 40,000, IS IN THE AIR FORCE. DISAGGREGATED DATA ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER IS REQUIRED TO LOCATE THE SOURCE OF THIS DISCREPANCY.

4. TABLING AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN NATIONAL CONTINGENTS WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT FOR THIS PURPOSE AND WOULD MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF TABLING NATIONAL TOTALS, ELICITING GERMAN OPPOSITION.

5. WE ANTICIPATE EASTERN OBJECTIONS TO THE CONCEPT UNDERLYING THE FRG PROPOSAL. FOR THIS REASON, THE WESTERN PROPOSAL WHEN MADE SHOULD BE AS CREDIBLE AS POSSIBLE. AT LEAST ONE LEVEL OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER IS NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE CREDIBILITY OF THE METHOD OF DATA COMPARISON ENVISAGED BY THE GERMAN PROPOSAL. THE CONCEPT OF TABLING TWO LISTS--ONE OF MAJOR UNITS, ONE OF REMAINING FORCES--WOULD BE UNDERMINED IF AIR FORCES WERE NOT SUBJECT TO SUCH A BREAKDOWN. MOREOVER, EXCLUSION OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER FROM BREAKDOWN WOULD BE CLEARLY BASED ON THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH. THUS, AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP AIR FORCE MANPOWER FROM THE BREAKDOWN WILL NOT ONLY DETRACT FROM THE CREDIBILITY OF THE GERMAN PROPOSAL BUT WILL BE ATTACKED BY THE EAST AS EVIDENCE THAT THE WEST IS PURSUING ITS REDUCTION APPROACH IN THE DATA DISCUSSION - A DISCUSSION WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POSITIONS OF BOTH SIDES.

6. THE DATA DISCUSSION WILL TAKE PLACE UNDER CLEAR DISCLAIMERS. THUS, THE DISAGGREGATION OF AIR FORCE DATA WOULD CONTAIN NO IMPLICATIONS AS TO REDUCTIONS OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER OR A SEPARATE LIMIT ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER. MOREOVER, THE WEST REJECTS LIMITATIONS ON UNITS. THERE WILL THUS ALSO BE NO IMPLICATION OF RESTRICTION ON FREEDOM TO REORGANIZE AIR FORCES. RESOR

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